UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1991/L.11
5 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Organizational session for 1991
30 January and 5-8 February 1991
Agenda items 2 and 3

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL

Draft proposals submitted by the Acting President and members of the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (1) of Council resolution 1988/77

DRAFT DECISION I

Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1991

A. Major policy theme for the special high-level meeting of the Council with ministerial participation in 1991 (Geneva, 4 and 5 July 1991)

1. The Council confirms, pursuant to its decision 1990/205 of 9 February 1990, that the major policy theme to be considered at its special high-level meeting with ministerial participation in 1991 will be the following: "The impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic co-operation".

B. Items for consideration at the first regular session of 1991 (7-31 May 1991)

2. The Economic and Social Council, having considered the proposed basic programme of work for 1991 and 1992 submitted by the Secretary-General, 1/ approves the following list of items for consideration at its first regular session of 1991:

1/ E/1991/1 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters. 2/

2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

3. Non-governmental organizations.

4. United Nations University.

5. Statistical and cartographic questions:

   (a) Statistics;

   (b) Cartography.

6. World social situation.

7. Social development.

8. Human rights questions.

9. Advancement of women.

10. Narcotic drugs.

11. Elections and nominations.

12. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991.

C. Allocation of items for the first regular session of 1991

3. The Council decides to allocate the items for consideration at its first regular session as follows:

Items for consideration in plenary meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

3. Non-governmental organizations.

2/ Under this item the Council will hear oral reports on emergency assistance to Somalia (General Assembly resolution 45/229) and on emergency assistance for the economic and social rehabilitation of Liberia (Assembly resolution 45/232).

4. United Nations University.

5. Statistical and cartographic questions:

   (a) Statistics;

   (b) Cartography.

11. Elections and nominations.

12. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1991.

Items for consideration by the Second (Social) Committee

6. World social situation.

7. Social development.

8. Human rights questions.

9. Advancement of women.

10. Narcotic drugs.

D. Items for consideration at the second regular session of 1991 (Geneva, 3-25 July 1991)

4. The Council also approves, subject to rule 9, paragraph 4, of its rules of procedure, the following list of items for consideration at its second regular session of 1991:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments.

3. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council.

4. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries.

5. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

6. International co-operation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl.

7. Regional co-operation.

8. Development and international economic co-operation: 3/

   (a) Trade and development;

   (b) Food and agriculture; 4/

   (c) Science and technology for development;

   (d) Transnational corporations;

   (e) Natural resources;

   (f) Population;

   (g) Human settlements;

   (h) Environment;

   (i) Desertification and drought;

   (j) Transport of dangerous goods;

   (k) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development;

   (l) World Decade for Cultural Development.

9. Industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

10. International co-operation in the field of informatics.

11. Operational activities for development.

12. Co-ordination questions.

3/ For its consideration of the item, the Council agrees on the following clustering of sub-items:

First part: sub-items (a) and (b);
Second part: sub-items (c) and (d);
Third part: sub-items (e) and (f);
Fourth part: sub-items (g), (h) and (i);
Fifth part: sub-item (j);
Sixth part: sub-item (k);
Seventh part: sub-item (l).

4/ The report of the World Food Council will be the subject of an in-depth review by the Council in 1991.

13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

14. Programme and related questions:

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

(b) Calendar of conferences.

15. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

16. Disaster reduction and relief:

(a) Fight against the screw-worm infestation;

(b) International strategy for the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa;

(c) Disaster relief co-ordination.

17. Special economic and humanitarian assistance.

18. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 5/

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

E. Allocation of items for the second regular session of 1991

5. The Council decides to allocate the items for consideration at its second regular session of 1991 as follows:

Items for consideration in plenary meeting

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments.

3. Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council.

5/ In accordance with Council resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decides otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda.

4. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries.

5. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

6. International co-operation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl.

18. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Items for consideration by the First (Economic) Committee

7. Regional co-operation.

8. Development and international economic co-operation.

9. Industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

10. International co-operation in the field of informatics.

Items for consideration by the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee

11. Operational activities for development.

12. Co-ordination questions.

13. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

14. Programme and related questions.

15. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

16. Disaster reduction and relief.

17. Special economic and humanitarian assistance.

Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

F. Report of the World Food Council (E/1991/1, para. 12)

6. The Council decides to undertake at its second regular session an in-depth review of the report of the World Food Council on the work of its seventeenth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 39/217 of 18 December 1984, and to submit recommendations thereon to the Assembly for consideration and action.

G. Reports of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission on Human Settlements and the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development (E/1991/1, para. 13)

7. The Council decides that when reviewing at its second regular session the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its sixteenth session, the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its thirteenth session and the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, it will not consider draft proposals, except for specific recommendations contained in those reports that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the co-ordination aspects of the work of those bodies.

H. Report of the Trade and Development Board (E/1991/1, para. 14)

8. The Council decides to consider at its second regular session the report of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the second part of its thirty-seventh session and to transmit directly to the General Assembly the report of the Board on the first part of its thirty-eighth session.

DRAFT DECISION II

Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1992

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following list of questions for inclusion in the programme of work for 1992: 6/

6/ E/1991/1/Add.1.

A. Major policy themes

The international trade system and its impact on the development of the developing countries

Eradication of poverty in the developing countries, including the impact of structural adjustment programmes on vulnerable groups

B. First regular session (5-29 May 1992)

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children 7/

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 38/14, 39/16, 40/22 and 45/105 and Council resolutions 1984/43, 1985/19 and 1990/49)

Report of the Secretary-General containing an analysis of the replies received from Governments on action taken under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Human rights questions

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1985/17)

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-eighth session (Council resolutions 5 (I) and 9 (II))

Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa (General Assembly resolution 45/84)

Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region (General Assembly resolution 45/168)

7/ Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States Parties to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

Advancement of women

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-sixth session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (LXI))

Integration of women in development (General Assembly resolution 39/128)

Priorities and strategies for the advancement of women of the organizations of the United Nations system (Council resolution 1985/46)

Progress made by organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1988/22)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Social development

Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its twelfth session (General Assembly resolution 415 (V) and Council resolutions 1584 (L) and 1979/19 and decisions 1981/192 and 1981/194)

Question of international co-operation in combating organized crime (Council resolution 1989/70 and General Assembly resolutions 44/71 and 45/123)

Implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for the programmes of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 45/121)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status and role of co-operatives in the light of new economic and social trends (General Assembly resolution 44/58) 7/

Public administration and finance

Report of the Tenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

United Nations University

Report of the Council of the United Nations University for 1991 8/

C. Second regular session (1-24 July 1992)

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (General Assembly resolution 118 (II) and Council resolution 1724 (LIII))

World Economic Survey

Summaries of the surveys of economic conditions in the five regions, prepared by the regional commissions (Council resolution 1724 (LIII))

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-eighth session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI))

Summary by the Secretary-General of the main research findings of the system on major global economic and social trends, policies and emerging issues (Council resolution 1986/51, sect. VI)

Executive summaries of the specialized agencies (Council resolution 1989/114, para. 11)

Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council

Review of the implementation of the measures agreed upon for the revitalization of the Council (Council resolution 1990/69)

Regional co-operation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional co-operation (Council decision 1979/1), including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional co-operation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and decision 1982/174) and the findings and conclusions of the regional commissions on the traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes (General Assembly resolution 44/226, sect. I)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994 (General Assembly resolution 39/227 and Council resolution 1984/78)

8/ Will be considered by the General Assembly in 1992.

Development and international economic co-operation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/193 on the support of the international community for the economic and social infrastructure of Yemen 7/

Review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 45/199) 7/

Trade and development

Report of the Trade and Development Board (General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX))

Food and agricultural development

Report of the World Food Council on its eighteenth session (General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX)) 8/

Report on the review and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development (Council decision 1981/185)

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187

Report of the Secretary-General on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 44/227) 7/

International co-operation in tax matters

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters (Council resolution 1980/13)

Transnational corporations

Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its eighteenth session (Council resolution 1913 (LVII))

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia (Council resolution 1986/1)

Development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its seventh session (General Assembly resolution 37/250) 8/

Development of the energy resources of developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/209 on the development of energy resources in developing countries 7/

Co-operation in fisheries in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on co-operation in fisheries in Africa (General Assembly resolution 45/184) 7/

Operational activities for development

Comprehensive policy review of operational activities

Report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation for the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system (General Assembly resolutions 35/81, 41/171, 42/196 and 44/211) 7/

Report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation on the implementation of the resolution entitled "Comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (General Assembly resolution 44/211)

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its thirty-ninth session (General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX))

Technical co-operation activities of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX)) 9/

United Nations Population Fund (General Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII)) 8/

Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (General Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX))

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (General Assembly resolution 802 (VIII)) 8/

9/ Will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1992.

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children 7/

Co-ordination questions

Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its thirty-second session (Council resolution 2008 (LX))

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for 1991 (Council resolution 13 (III))

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on the Joint Meetings of the two Committees (Council resolutions 1171 (XLI), 1472 (XLVIII), 2008 (LX) and 1988/64)

Report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (Council decision 1980/103)

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (General Assembly resolution 39/229) 7/

Preliminary report outlining the proposed framework of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 (Council resolution 1989/105)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1990/85 on consumer protection

Programme questions

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

Report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on its thirty-second session (Council resolution 2008 (LX))

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII)) 7/

Assistance to the oppressed people of South Africa and their national liberation movement provided by the agencies and institutions within the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 33/183 K)

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Oral reports on special programmes of economic and humanitarian assistance

Oral report on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda (Council resolution 1983/46)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) and Council resolution 1990/63) 7/

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 10/

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Reports brought to the attention of the Council

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

DRAFT DECISION III

Dates of the thirty-third session of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (E/1991/1, para. 8)

The Council decides that the thirty-third session of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, which was scheduled to be convened at Headquarters from 6 to 10 May 1991, will be held at Headquarters from 18 to 22 March 1991.

DRAFT DECISION IV

Dates of the Tenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (E/1991/1, para. 15)

The Council, pursuant to its decision 1990/287, decides that the Tenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance will be held from 4 to 13 Septembe. 1991 in New York.

10/ In accordance with Council resolution 1623 (LI) of 30 July 1971, the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decides otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time its agenda is adopted.

DRAFT DECISION V

Enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/1991/1, para. 17)

The Council, pursuant to its decision 1990/285, decides to consider at its first regular session of 1991, under agenda item 1, the question of the enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 11/

DRAFT DECISION VI

Narcotic drugs

The Council decides to consider at a resumed first regular session of 1991, to take place from ___ to ___ June, the item entitled "Narcotic drugs".

DRAFT DECISION VII

Postponement of the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Council agrees to postpone for one year the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, currently scheduled to be held at Baghdad for one week in April/May 1991.

DRAFT DECISION VIII

Regional co-operation (E/1991/1, para. 80)

The Council decides to consider at its second regular session of 1991, under the item entitled "Regional co-operation", in pursuance of Council resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982 and taking into account the joint recommendations made by the executive secretaries of the regional commissions pursuant to Council decision 1982/174 of 30 July 1982, the following question: strengthening the role of the regional commissions to promote subregional, regional and interregional co-operation.

11/ See E/1990/121.